Proposal of Bihar Government for Extension of the HBJ Pipeline

3002. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar had submitted a proposal to Government for extension of the HBJ pipeline to Bihar;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in regard to the proposal of Bihar Government for bringing HBJ pipeline from Jagdishpur via Jaunpur to the Western part of Bihar;

(c) if so, by when this project is likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) No, sir. Extension of HBJ Pipeline to Bihar is not possible at present because there is no additional natural gas available.

Setting up of a Coalbed Methane Project in Bihar

† 3003. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a reserve of about 40 billion cubic feet coalbed methane gas has been found in Dhanbad and Hazaribagh area of Bihar;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to set up a coalbed methane project in the State on the basis of the methane gas available;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Preliminary studies and Research and Development activities undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas corporation (ONGC) have indicated the presence of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Hazaribagh and Dhanbad areas of Bihar.

Government has approved policy for exploration and exploitation of CBM in the country, which provides for global competitive bidding. The preparation for invitation of bids in accordance with CBM policy has not been completed. The CBM reserve base can be known only after exploration and the commercial viability of utilisation of such reserves can be established thereafter.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.